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HISTORY OF NORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Written by Ruth Culler



CENTENNIAL 1880 - 1980

100 YEARS WITH GOD

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Early History Of Methodism's Beginning In Indiana

The Methodists were not the most numerous religious body among the early settlers in Indiana. It is probable that they were less numerous than either the Baptist or the New Lights. The first reliable record of Methodist preaching in Indiana was in 1801 at a settlement call Springville which was located in Clark's grant. Two local preachers, Samuel Parker and Edward Talbott, crossed the Ohio River and conducted a two day's meeting. This was evidently a part of the great revival movement which was then under way in the western country.

To William McKendree, the Presiding Elder of the Kentucky district, belongs the honor of establishing the first official Methodist class ever formed in Indiana. In the summer of 1802 Andrew Mitchell took William McKendree across the Ohio River in a canoe, and on this trip two classes were formed in what is now Clark County, one at the town of Charleston and the other at a place called New Chapple.

The first entire circuit in the territory of Indiana was the Silver Creek, which was organized in 1807 with Moses Ashworth as the circuit preacher.

The first camp-meeting held in Indiana was probably the one conducted in the Robertson neighborhood, in the vicinity of Charlestown in the summer of 1807. At the beginning of the Indiana Methodism there were of course no meeting houses but in the winter time the cabins of the settlers were the temples, and in the spring, just as soon as it became warm enough, the people worshipped out under the trees. It was not long, however, before log meeting houses began to be erected, for there was plenty of material and willing hands.

The first Methodist Church to be built in Indiana was Old Bethel Church - or Robertson's meeting house as it was first known, and the year was 1807. Nathan Robertson built it on his farm with the help of his six adult sons and neighbors. They hewed the timbers and lay them one upon another to make a House of God in the wilderness. One of Nathan's good friends was Daniel Boone, who gave him one of the famous Boone wolf traps.

In northern Indiana, South Bend's First Church claims to be the first Methodist congregation established north of the Wabash River. It started with a prayer meeting in the home of Benjamin Ross in 1831, and was led by a traveling minister of the Illinois Conference who was based in Fort Wayne.

The mid-nineteenth century expansion of Methodism in the Hoosier State was led by such men as Bishop Matthew Simpson, Bishop Edward R. Ames, and the Rev. Joseph Tarkington (grandfather of Hoosier author Booth Tarkington).

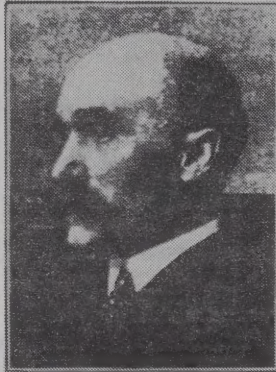
One noticeable fact in regard to Methodist church history in Indiana is that the first societies, as a general rule, were formed in the country. In many of the towns, the property holders and office seekers were opposed to all forms of religion. Few of the men who planted Methodism in the State of Indiana were educated men in the sense in which we now consider that term. Their schooling was as a rule very limited but somehow they became efficient interpreters of a larger life. The circuit-rider always carried a Bible, a hymn book and a discipline and usually a copy of Wesley's Sermons or Fletcher's Appeal. By 1832, the Methodist membership in Indiana had grown to nearly 20,000.

The first session of the Indiana Conference met in New Albany on October 17, 1832, with Bishop Joshua Soule presiding. When it was organized there were 5 districts, 20,035 members and sixty-five preachers. At the last session of the old Indiana Conference in 1843 there were sixteen districts, 67,219 members and 216 traveling preachers. The Indiana Conference was divided into two Conferences in 1844 - The North Indiana Conference and Indiana Conference.

In the year 1880 the number of churches increased on the average of six and one-third churches per year. The average cost of the churches was from five to twelve thousand dollars. The average salary of the ministers of the North Indiana Conference for the year 1880 was 668 dollars and 64 cents. Some of them received as much as 14 hundred dollars and one man received only 192 dollars for a year's work.

From its frontier class-meeting beginnings along the Ohio River, Hoosier United Methodism has grown to 1,426 congregations with more than 325,000 members currently presided over by Bishop Ralph T. Alton, who is the 1978-79 president of the denomination's council of Bishops.

Norris Chapel Namesake



Rev. H. J. Norris

Rev. H. J. Norris was born at Smithville, Wayne County, Ohio, February 22, 1846, and died at his home in Winchester, Indiana, February 14, 1916. Had he lived eight days longer he would have completed seventy years.

Born of upright and pious parents, who both loved God and loved their country, Brother Norris came to his youth and early manhood during the stirring days of the Civil War. Three brothers had already joined the colors, and he very much longed to share their struggles and serve in the defense of his country. To this cause he heartily offered himself, but frail health rendered it unwise for the military authorities to admit him to the rank of soldier. Undaunted by this rejection, he gave himself for a term to the service of the Pioneer Corps., a service in which he was not required to be sworn as a soldier and in which he assisted in such work as building roads, bridges, and fortifications. Failing health soon compelled his retirement from this service.

Returning to his native State, he entered Normal School at Wooster, Ohio, where he achieved distinction in the field of public debate.

Brother Norris was born into the spiritual kingdom in Wooster, February 16, 1867. This was under the ministry of Rev. J. H. McConnell, father of Bishop F. J. McConnell, of the Methodist Church. He soon after united with the church at Canal Fulton, and the following summer he was licensed to preach. For some years he was a teacher, and continued to teach and to preach until, closing his work in the schools of Dunkirk, IN., he entered the North Indiana Conference in 1873, and gave himself for thirty-nine years to the ministry of the Word. He served as follows: 1873-4 Marion Ct., 75-6 Inwood, 77-8 Fort Wayne Seminary, 79-81 Auburn, 82-3 Goshen, 84-5 Dillon, Mont., 86 Hartford City, 87-90 Noblesville, 91-5 Logansport Broadway, 96-9 New Castle, 00-1 Fort Wayne Berry St., 02-6 Winchester, 07 LaGrange, 08-11 Upland, 12 Superannuated, 12-13 Retired.

He was married to Hattie Snyder, January 24, 1878. Of his own immediate family he had two children, a daughter Mrs. Edna Foust and son Dean Norris. His illness covered a period of about eighteen months. After the funeral which was held at the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Winchester, Indiana, his body was taken to Dalton, Ohio, for internment.

Land Through The Years

One Half acre of land for the Norris Chapel Church was purchased from Daniel D. Metcalf and Margaret J. Metcalf, his wife, on December 30, 1879.

Warranty Deed
D. D. Metcalf and wife
to
Trustee M. E. Church
Dated July 27/80
Recorded Mar 29/81

This Indenture Witnesseth, that Daniel D. Metcalf and Margaret J. Metcalf his wife of DeKalb County in the State of Indiana, County and Precinct to Jeremiah D. Likens, Daniel D. Metcalf and David W. Stewart and their Successors the Trustees of Wilmington Class of the Auburn Circuit of the Northern Indiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of DeKalb County, in the State

of Indiana, for the sum of Thirty Five Dollars, the following Real Estate in DeKalb County, in the State of Indiana, to-wit:

One Half of an acre of land off of the South East corner of the South East fourth of South East fourth of Sec Twenty Four (24) Township Thirty Four (34) North of Range Thirteen (13) East, commencing at the South East corner running Six and Two thirds rods North, then Twelve rods West, Thence Six and Two thirds rods South, then Twelve rods East to place of starting. In Trust that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of Divine Worship for the use of the Ministry and Membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America subject to the Discipline usage and ministerial appointments of said Church as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church and the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated.

In Witness Whereof, the said Daniel D. Metcalf and his wife Margaret J. Metcalf have hereunto set their hands and seals this 27th day of July A. D. 1880.

Daniel D. Metcalf (seal)

Margaret J. Metcalf (seal)

State of Indiana, DeKalb County, ss:

Before me John Wilson a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, this 27th day of July 1880, Daniel D. Metcalf and Margaret J. Metcalf his wife acknowledged the execution of the annexed deed.

Witness my hand and Justice Seal, this 27th day of July 1880.

John Wilson Justice (seal)

The above is a true copy and Recorded March 29th 1882 at 9 A. M.

W. Boland

Recorder

In November of 1970, the church purchased five acres of land from Glen Myers for \$2,000. The five acres is directly across from the church east. This land was farmed each year by Sam Eberly and John Ramer until Sam moved away and then John did the farming for Norris.

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Electors

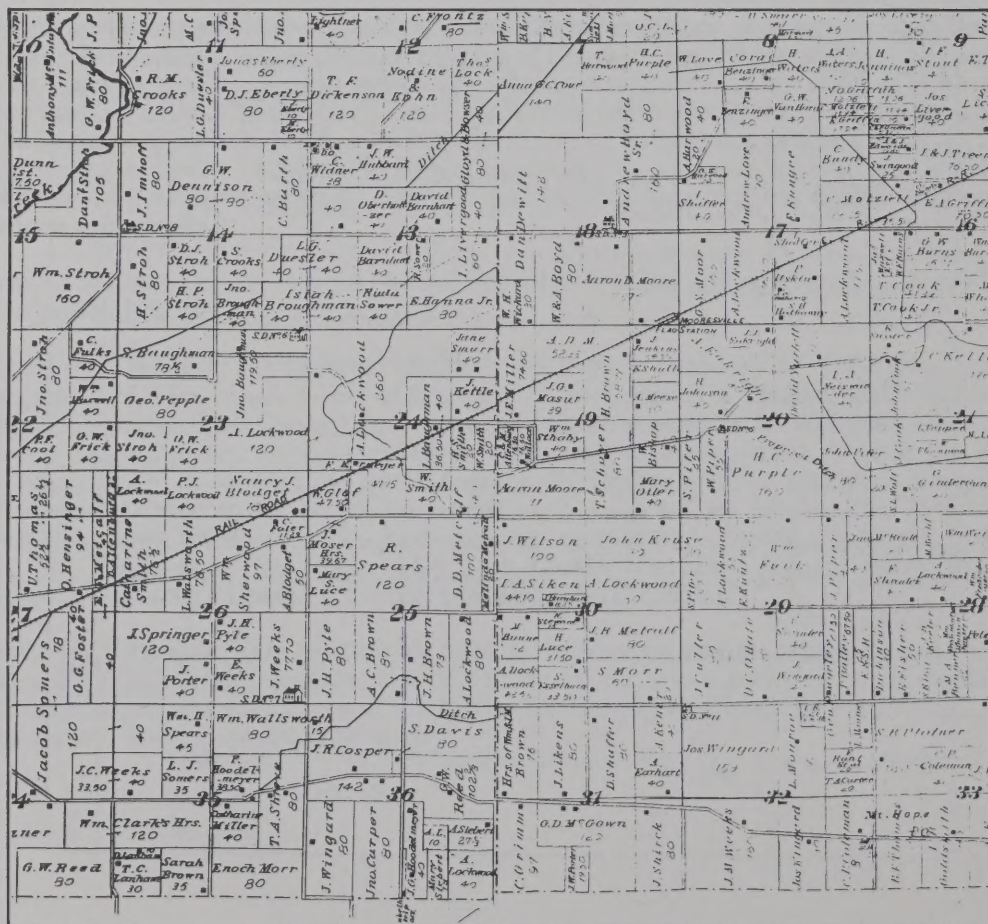
Trustees M. E. Church Wilmington Township

Wilmington Seneca Co. Ind.
Grand Co Indiana Dec 2nd 1880

This is to certify that after previous notice and according to the Discipline of the
M. E. Church, the Wilmington Class of the M. E. Church Fort Wayne District Ind.
Indiana Conference proceeded to Elect by voice the following persons as their
pri- D. Lickens, Daniel D. McCall, David Steward.

H. J. Swanson.
Elo Registry Sec

Winton Recorded Jan'y 6th 1880 at 11 A.M. Wm. (Deland) Secord



Building Through The Years

In the year 1880, the Norris Chapel Building was constructed, consisting of a one-room structure without belfry and alter. There were two wood burning stoves, one on each side, and the pipes from each stove were hung from the ceiling by wire until they came together into the chimney. Sometime later, a chimney was built on each side. In 1899 the belfry and alter were added. Around 1930 Albert Weicht and Ralph Staley built a coal shed on the left front of the church.

In 1953, after Mr. Allison gave the church more land, Arthur Rosenberry came with his crane and dug a basement. The church building was then moved north its length and east the width of the building. It has placed on an eight foot wall with full basement. An oil furnace was purchased, the two chimneys were taken down and a chimney again built at the north end. The complete cost of moving the church, labor, and material was approximately \$4,000. The well was drilled in 1954. In 1957, the alter was replaced by one built by Wayne Myers and Rev. William Mathys and donated by the MYF.

On April 14, 1961, Ivan Rosenberry came with his backhoe and started digging the basement for a new addition to be added to the west side. The building committee was: Keith Culler, chairman, Albert Weicht, Glenn Heffley, Delbert Martin and Ed Brown. Building fund treasurer was Harold Albert. Rev. Harry McCrum laid block and Ed Brown was the contractor. The new addition consisted of a cloak room, three classrooms, two rest rooms and basement. The cost of the new addition was \$10,000 and it was completely paid off in September of 1963.

The bell was taken down on May 11, 1961, and the Adult Class later mounted it on the church lawn. The church was shingled in an off white color at this time by the men of the church and a new roof put on. In the summer of 1979, the church was aluminum sided in white.

The cross was built by Rev. Everett Haines and he and his wife erected it in September of 1963. In August of 1978, a wind storm blew the cross down and it was rebuilt by Rev. Haines and again mounted on the roof. In May of 1962, men and women gathered at the church and zip stripped all the varnish from the pews and refinished them. Rev. Haines built and installed the cupboards in the basement in 1963 and 1964, sinks were changed and formica added. In 1964 the railing was purchased, as well as a new alter (third one) costing \$510. Shortly after, a new pulpit was added. The folding doors, costing \$500, were installed in the basement in 1966 and Loyal Norton built and installed the choir risers in April of 1964.

The north window in the sanctuary was stain glassed in 1967 in memory of Glen Heffley and in 1969 the Young Disciples Class stain glassed the other two. Leslie Brown made the white cross that hangs in the front of the sanctuary.

Larry and Carolyn Heffley planted the trees on each side of the bell in April of 1968. The sanctuary was remodeled in 1968 with a lowered ceiling, paneling on the walls, refinished wainscoting, new hanging lights and new clock. It was dedicated on January 19, 1969. The cost was \$2,364.32. Shortly after, a new ceiling was added in the basement. Elson, Gary, and Monte Brown did the carpenter work with the help of all the men in the church.

The top classroom was partitioned in May of 1967 to make two rooms available and the carpet, costing \$1,500, was added in the sanctuary in May of 1969. Cushions were added to the pews in February of 1972 as well as new padding on the communion rail and kneeling bench. The new glass doors, costing \$515, were installed in the entrance of the church as well as the dusk to dawn light at about the same time.

The vestibule and cloak room were redecorated in June of 1972 by the Young Disciples Class. They paneled the vestibule, painted the cloak room and carpeted both rooms. The nursery was partitioned off in 1972, costing \$268.62 and music closet was built in March of 1973 by Jay and Mark Freed and Gene Warstler.

Twice in 1978, the devil tried very hard to break into Norris Chapel. In the spring and again in the fall a car ran into the east side, both times suspending the car in the wall. After that Fred Surface, handyman, fixed up a flood light next to the bell.

It became necessary to lock the church in 1968 because of so many breakins and after that a telephone was installed.

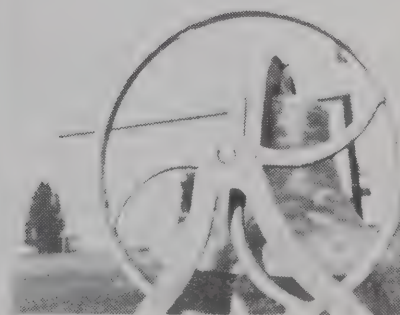
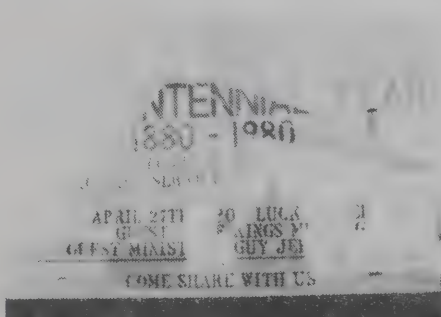
At one time a big elm stood on the corner by the road and in 1961, it was felt necessary to cut it down. The sign in front of the church was donated by the Willing Worker's Class in 1960 and shrubs and gravel have been donated for the parking lots through the years.

Norris Chapel is a beautiful building and it is because of willing hands that through these one hundred years worked to make and keep it that way.

Norris Chapel Look Through The Years



Norris Chapel Look Today



Preacher's Through The Years

1880-1 **HUGH J. NORRIS**

GOSHEN DISTRICT:

Waterloo Circuit (Waterloo, Barker's Chapel and Norris Chapel)

1882 JACOB K. WALTZ — He was born in Floyd County, Indiana, March 21, 1846. Soon after graduation from "Old Asbury College," now DePauw University, with the class of 1869, he entered the teaching profession and for two years was principal of the New Albany High School. He then became County Superintendent of the schools of Floyd. He served as president of the Y.M.C.A. in Albany, and spent many Sunday afternoons visiting the Jeffersonville Prison with a band of co-workers.

He married a fine Christian, Jennie S. Bradley of New Albany, in 1874 and their home was adorned with the presence of three children: Lawrence B. who was taken to his heavenly home in his youth; Frank M., and Elizabeth. For a number of years he was Conference correspondent of the Western Christian Advocate reporting the proceedings of the sessions of that body. After thirty-five years of faithful service in the active ranks he retired in 1911. The last three years of his life were with failing health, and on May 17, 1919, at the age of 73, he quietly left this world to be with the Lord. His body was buried in Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

1883-4 WILLIAM M. VANSLYKE — He was born March 8, 1848. At the session of the North Indiana Conference held in Muncie in 1872 he was a member of a class of sixteen who were admitted on trial in the Conference. His first charge was Marion Circuit to which he was sent in 1872.

He was married to Elizabeth Josephine Suman of Anderson, Indiana, in 1874. To this union were born three children - Lula Nettie, William Ralph and Bernice Katherine. His wife died on June 10, 1910 and soon after he moved to a farm near Lawton, Michigan. He died on March 30, 1915 after a few months illness of cirrhosis of the liver. His body was buried in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan.

1885-7 WILLIAM DAVID PARR — He was born near Jolietville, Indiana on November 10, 1855, the son of Alfred and Margaret Parr. His young mother died while he was still in his infancy and he grew up in the care of a good woman who was the mother of his father's other six sons and one daughter. He married Miss Walton of Atlanta, Indiana on January 11, 1883 and they were blessed with four children. He was admitted to the North Indiana Conference in 1878.

He passed away on August 12, 1917 at the age of 62. Internment was made at Kokomo.

1888-9 HANSON CONRAD SMITH — He was born near Sante Fe, Miami County, Indiana, June 5, 1849 and died near his childhood home July 27, 1913. When just a lad he was converted and at once joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. For a few years he taught in the public schools and then answered an unmistakable call to enter the ministry.

In early life, he was married to Clara Clayton who lived but a few months after their marriage. In 1877 he married Maggie DeWyland who shared all his ministerial life and labors. In 1877 he was appointed as junior preacher on the Mexico Circuit. The night before his death he preached in the church at Sante Fe and then, seemingly in usual health, he retired and in the morning "He was not, for God had taken him." Burial was in the family lot in the cemetery at Sante Fe.

1890 LOUIS A. RETTS — He was born on a farm in Randolph County, Indiana, December 16, 1845 and departed this life at Los Angeles, California, May 3, 1912, aged sixty-six years, four months and seventeen days. He was the son of John and Anna Retts. During a revival held by the Rev. Milton S. Metts, he was converted and filled with the spirit and power of God. He was admitted to the Conference on trial at its session in Warsaw in 1868.

He married Nellie Morse, of Holliston, Mass., October 26, 1876. After a happy marriage of thirty-four years she was translated in February of 1909. Five children were born to them. One, and infant too frail for the rude blasts of earth, went home before it had hardly left its impress upon earth. One died at the age of seven.

While Rev. Retts was serving as pastorate at Hartford City he had a severe attack of typhoid fever and was never able for hard work afterwards. He retired in the spring of 1910. During the last years of his life he was a constant and great sufferer from neuritis and later from hemorrhage of the lungs. His body was laid to rest in the cemetery at San Diego, Calif.

1891 J. M. DEWEESE — He was born in Morgantown, Kentucky on August 22, 1866, and died in Karnak, Illinois on September 27, 1931. He had been transferred to Illinois Conference.

1892 E. F. ALBERTSON — He was transferred to the Central New York Conference in 1911. Received in 1888.

1893 ULYSSES S. A. BRIDGE — He was born in Columbia City, Indiana, September 9, 1867, son of Rev. Henry Bridge (member of the North Indiana Conference) and Maria Anglemair. He was united in marriage to Rosanna Whittenberger of Claypool, Indiana, on June 12, 1889. Four children were born to this union. His wife preceded him in death by only just a few weeks.

He entered the North Indiana Conference on trial in 1889, ordained a deacon in 1891 and an elder in 1895. He retired because of ill health and died in the Methodist Hospital in Fort Wayne, November 25, 1951. Internment took place in the family lot Mt. Hope Cemetery at Huntington.

1894 ALVIN L. WEAVER — He was born in Noble County, Indiana, January 14, 1867, the son of Joseph and Mary Weaver, and departed this life October 25, 1945 at LaGrange, IN. At the Summit Methodist Church he dedicated his life to the ministry. After attending Taylor and DePauw Universities he began his ministerial work at Waterloo.

In 1898 he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Nichols who was a faithful companion during his active ministry and to his death. To them were born two children: Charles, age six and one-half years, died while they were on the Inwood charge. The other was a daughter Martha.

Due to failing health, he retired in 1929, and moved to LaGrange to make his home. He was buried in the Greenwood Cemetery at LaGrange, Indiana.

1895-7 F. L. ERLUGHER — He was born in Milton, Indiana, on October 28, 1865 and died in Minneapolis, MN, on June 3, 1930. He started preaching in 1892 and in 1913 was transferred to North Minnesota Conference.

1898-9 W. F. DINGEL — He started preaching in 1891 at Vedersburg and in 1909 requested his own location.

1900 JAMES D. BELT — He was born in Green County, Ohio, January 11, 1847. In 1874 he was appointed superintendent of the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Orphan's Home at Xenia for two years. He and his brother then became engaged in the business of buying and butchering stock at Spring Valley, Ohio until 1876 when he answered the divine call to the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. His first work was in the Kentucky Conference in 1877. He transferred to the North Indiana Conference in 1884.

He first married Tyson B. Baucaum in Muhlenburg County, Kentucky on March 26, 1878. This union was blessed with four children. After 20 years she died on November 4, 1898. On June 19, 1901, he was united in marriage to Laura Collett of Silver Lake, Indiana. They were blessed with four boys.

His last four years were marked as years of continued illness from a disease of the kidneys. On January 13, 1909 he was released from his suffering and went home to God at the age of 62 years and 2 days. After thirty-one years of preaching he was laid to rest in the cemetery at Leesburg.

- 1901** **D. I. HOWER** — His first preaching site was Harlan in 1896 and he was transferred to Des Moines Conference in 1908. Received in 1898.
- 1902-3** **G. S. COCKING** — First preached at Coesse in 1893 and in 1905 was transferred to Southern California Conference. Received in 1896.
- 1904** **LOUIS A. RETTS** (See previous appointment)
- 1905-6** **CHARLES H. MURRAY** — He was born in 1855 in Randolph County, Indiana. He was the son of Thomas and Hannah Murray. He was educated in the schools of Roanoke and Huntington and taught in the Huntington and Whitley County schools for ten years. He was converted in the winter of 1874, was given an Exhorter's license a year later and in 1881 was granted a Local Preacher's license and assigned to the Geneva Circuit. A year later he was admitted to the North Indiana Conference. This was the beginning of thirty years of active service. He was strong fighter against evils of the day and aroused such bitter hatred on the part of the saloon forces that he was once burned in effigy by his enemies was several times threatened and even subject to court action. In every case he won the victory for the dry cause.
- On October 28, 1896, Brother Murray was united in marriage to Mary Morris of Fort Wayne who shared his ministry for thirty-one years. She was taken away in 1917. They had two daughters, Nellie and Ethel. He retired in 1911 and moved to Leesburg and then Andrews where he died on November 7, 1932. His internment is in the Huntington Cemetery.
- 1907-8** **RICHARD D. BIVEN** — He was born march 1, 1853, son of Thomas and Irene Biven in Lewis County, Kentucky. Both parents died while he, the youngest of nine children, was an infant. A cousin, who was a local preacher in the Methodist Church, took the babe to his home and reared him. At twenty-one years of age he married Nannie Harrison of Kentucky. To them were born twelve children, five sons and seven daughters.
- Reared in a religious home, it was not surprising that at the early age of twelve he was converted. At twenty, after a reconsecration, he felt the call to the ministry but resisted until he was thirty-three when he yielded and gave proof to his dedication by selling his farm. His first appointment was in Boonville, Kentucky in 1887 and for fourteen years was in the Kentucky Conference. For two years he was with the United Brethren Church and then in 1903 returned to Methodist.
- His wife died in 1913 and he later married Leota Franklin of Freedom, in 1914. because of illness he took the retired relation in 1924. On Sunday, July 28, while in church he was stricken and died on August 1, 1929, while living at Cannelton. Burial was made in Highland Cemetery, Covington, Kentucky.
- 1909** **E. E. BERGMAN** — Transferred to Puget Sound 1910
- 1910** **N. L. STAMBAUGH**
- 1911-12** **GEORGE F. HUBBARTT** — He was born in Sheridan, Indiana, on May 26, 1882, son of John and Mariza Hubbartt. In June, 1906, he was appointed as supply of the newly organized Riverside Park Methodist Church, Indianapolis, being the first pastor. On September 15 of that year he was admitted on trial in the Northwest Indiana Conference. While serving Riverside he met Nora Davy whom he married on September 8, 1909. She preceded him in death on September 20, 1956.
- In 1911 he was transferred to the North Indiana Conference. Almost immediately he began to serve on committees and boards, the most important were five years on the Board of Ministerial Training, and twenty-one years on the Committee on Conference Relations.
- In 1947 he retired and moved to Indianapolis and in 1953 entered the Memorial home. He died in 1964 and his internment was in Crown Hill Cemetery at Indianapolis.
- 1913-14** **CARL E. BASH** — His first church was at Waterloo in 1913 and in 1919 he was transferred to New York East Conference. In the New York East Conference held in Jamaica, New York, on April 15-20, 1925, he was permitted to withdraw under charges or complaints.

1915-16 **SOLOMON F. HARTER** — (In addition to Waterloo, Barkers and Norris he had Memorial Chapel) He was born at the old Harter homestead, one mile north of Bartonina, Indiana, June 15, 1862. He was the son of Solomon J. and Martha Margaret Fisher Harter. He was active in the ministry of the Methodist Church for nearly forty years. He served his first charge, Ridgeville, in 1891.

He was first married to Rose Huffman, who passed away in 1887. In 1892 he was married to Minnie K. Jones who died in 1928. He was united in marriage to Guernsey Stephens June 24, 1929. Upon retirement the Harters moved to Union City where they resided for fifteen years. He died in St. Petersburg, Florida, where the Harters spent their winters. For several months his health had been failing and on November 11, 1948, at the age of 86 years, he passed away. A son, Earl and a daughter, Myrtle, preceded him in death. Internment was made in the Union City Cemetery.

FORT WAYNE DISTRICT Auburn Circuit

1917-18 **EZRA J. GLENDENNING** — (1917 - Auburn Junction, Norris and Memorial Chapel), (1918 Swan, Auburn Junction, Meese and Norris Chapel)

He was the youngest of nine children, born to Mr. and Mrs. James Glendening near Geneva, Indiana on January 3, 1881 and grew into manhood in that community. He married Mary Stauffer on June 11, 1903. To this union was born six children - Edith, Wilbur, Jesse, Melvin, Florence and Paul. At the time of his death, his wife had been bedfast for three years.

He farmed and pumped oil wells until his call to go into the ministry. He retired in 1945 and passed away July 5, 1962. Internment was in the Six-Mile Cemetery near Bluffton.

1919 **JOHN STANLEY DENBO** — (Swan, Auburn Junction, Norris, Meese, Grove Bethal)
He was born April 11, 1888, in a humble farm house, near English, Indiana to Joseph and Isabella Denbo. He was the eldest son in a family of eight children. When a young man he had a definite call to the ministry while working with two uncles on a farm in Iowa. While attending God's Bible School, he met and married Mable Marian Miller of Clarinda, Iowa on June 17, 1919 and after graduation went to his first charge, The Auburn Circuit.

He became a member of the North Indiana Conference in 1920, was ordained Deacon in 1923 and Elder in 1926. He worked with the Boy Scouts as Scout Master while serving the North Webster Charge. He was a member of the Lion's Club, Farm Bureau and Masonic Lodge No. 181, in Leesburg, Indiana. He retired in 1946 and built a home in North Webster where he lived until his death July 11, 1961. Many months in 1960 and 61 he was confined to his home or was in the hospital. It was during his last illness that the Denbos celebrated very quietly their forty second wedding anniversary, June 17, 1961. They never had children. His body was laid to rest in the North Webster Cemetery.

1920-21 **CHARLES M. HOLLOPETER** — (Auburn Junction, Norris and Meese)
He was born near Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, October 4, 1861. He taught school for several terms and was admitted on trial at the annual session of the North Indiana Conference held in Wabash in 1888. He began his ministry and was active until his retirement in 1927. He led in the building of two new churches and the remodeling of many others.

He was first married to Nellie Daniels of Huntington in 1892 who passed away April 17, 1924. On October 1, 1925, he was married to Nettie Van Tibbury who died on September 25, 1944.

Upon retirement he moved to Warsaw, where he resided for a number of years. About two years before his death on March 6, 1950, he moved to Auburn. He had been in failing health for a number of years and passed away after a brief illness at the home of his daughter Mrs. Ford Warner, near Auburn. He also had a son, Donald, and three step-children. Internment was made in the Leo Cemetery.

1922

IRVIN L. PUSEY — (Auburn Junction, Norris and Meese)

He was born February 11, 1900 in Adams County, near Geneva, Indiana. He was the son of Noah A. and Anna Liechty Pusey. He was converted, called to the ministry, and licensed to preach from the Union Chapel Church in 1922. His first Parish was the Auburn Circuit.

He met and married Opal Leola Walker on February 2, 1924. Born to this union were two sons, Lloyd Wendell and Merle Wesley. He belonged to the F & AM Lodge and Eastern Star at Spencerville, Indiana and the Scottish Rite, Fort Wayne. He was ordained elder in 1929.

He passed away on April 27, 1976 at Parkview Memorial Hospital, Fort Wayne, after an illness of two months. Internment was at Scipio Cemetery, east of Harlan, Indiana.

1923

F. E. BREWSTER — (Same three churches)

SPENCERVILLE CIRCUIT — (Spencerville, Mt. Olivet and Norris)

1924

R. S. BROWN

1925

CHARLES M. HOLLOPETER — (See previous appointment)

AUBURN CIRCUIT

1926

DAVID CLARKE — (Mt. Olivet and Norris)

1927

LEWIS EARL CLAYTON — (Mt. Olivet, Meese and Norris)

He served Norris Chapel and Meese from October 1, 1927 through May of 1928. He lived at home on the farm near Hoagland and graduated from high school that spring. He attended the Chicago Training School and received his AB degree from Albion College in Michigan. Also took additional studies at Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, Illinois.

He and his wife had two sons who became High School Music Instructors and choir directors at their churches.

In addition to his pastoring, he was Auditor for the Conference for 7 years, Secretary for 4 years, treasurer on a part time basis along with serving a church for 4 years and then full time treasurer of the North Indiana Conference for at least another 4 years.

1928-29

GEORGE B. DUNHAM — (Meese and Norris)

He was born near the little community of Latty, Ohio, 1896, the fourth child of Fred and Sophia Dunham. Following graduation from International Business College, he went to work in a business in Fort Wayne.

As a young man he attended the First Methodist Church in Ft. Wayne where he met Zelma Paxson to whom he was married on July 20, 1918. Shortly after his marriage he entered the service of his country where he served as a clerk-typist in the medical corps of the U. S. Army. He received his honorable discharge May 12, 1919. On June 14, 1920 a son was born to the Dunhams and they christened him Darrell Robert.

Though he had lived the life of a Christian for as long as he could recall it was at a youth institute at Lake Wawasee in 1916 where he made a definite commitment to a life of service to his Lord. Ten years later he began to feel within his own heart the urge to enter into the full service of the ministry. He was admitted into full membership of the Northern Indiana conference in 1934. His service in the conference began in 1928 at the Auburn Circuit.

Upon retirement, he and his wife moved to their home in Epworth Forest which he dearly loved. Here he continued his dedication and his service to those about him until his passing on April 18, 1967. Burial was in the Washington Union Cemetery near North Webster, Indiana.

1930

EDGAR L. JOHNSON — (Meese and Norris)

He was born April 5, 1895 to Mr. and Mrs. Luther Johnston, in Allen County, Indiana. He attended State Normal School at Terre Haute and began teaching when he was seventeen. At an early age he was soundly converted during an old-fashioned revival meeting at Wesley Chapel in the Wabash District. From then on he was interested in church work, always taking an active part in the affairs of God's Kingdom.

On April 18, 1920 he was united in marriage to Faye F. Lacy, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Henry Lacy, an active minister and was ordained deacon and elder in the Methodist Church. Ill health forced him to retire at Florida Station in 1960. He passed away at Murphy Medical Center June 13, 1963. He had two sons, Ray and Ronald. His body was laid to rest in Lindenwood Cemetery.

1931-36

WALTER M HOLLOPETER — (1931 served People's, Norris & Meese Chapels - 1932 added St. Joe and 1933-36 served Meese and Norris). He was born on March 6, 1868 and died at his country home near Fort Wayne on October 22, 1937. He entered the North Indiana Conference in 1901 and after his retirement in 1933 he was supply pastor for the Auburn Circuit.

He married Hattie Romine of Leo who died in 1902. Later he was married to Alice Raymer of Elkhart. He was survived by four sisters, one of them being Mrs. Gertrude Carnahan of Auburn. Rev. Charles M. Hollopeter was his brother. He served God in the ministry for thirty-six years. Burial was made in the Auburn Cemetery.

1937-40

JAMES DANIEL BELL — (Meese and Norris)

His first church was the Auburn Circuit in 1937 as a supply pastor. He was transferred to Indiana Conference in October of 1950.

1941

BEN ZEHR — (Norris, Meese and Altona)

He was born March 26, 1894 in Missouri and attended Missouri University. His parents were Levi and Lydia Zehr. He married Alma Stewart in Camden, Michigan and on the 14th of June of 1980 they celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. No children were born of this union.

Norris Chapel was one of his first church appointments. He is retired but is doing jail service in Coldwater, Michigan two days a week. On Thursdays he counsels and has prayer with those in jail. His address is 375 Lindley Road, Coldwater, Michigan.

1942-43

MASON BUCKNER — (Waterloo, Corunna, Norris)

WATERLOO CIRCUIT

1944-45

GUY JEFFERS — (Waterloo, Corunna, Norris)

He was born October 24, 1897, in Eastern Kansas to Duke Wellington and Emma (Kruse) Jeffers. He entered the ministry and preached for the first time in Orange, Ohio, in 1923. He married Miriam May Lafferty in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 20, 1922. No children were born of this union.

After a heart attack, at age 75 years, he retired in the year 1973. He and his wife live at 228 W. Oak, Butler, and are both very active in the church at Butler.

1946-50

HARLEY T. SHADY — (Waterloo, Corunna, Norris)

He was born February 10, 1899, in Wells County, Indiana, the son of James Theodore Shady and Celesta (Davison) Shady. He entered the ministry in 1928 serving the Wallen, St. Joe and Taylor Chapel Churches in the Fort Wayne Circuit as his first parish.

He married Mae Florentine (Keller) from Valparaiso, Indiana, on July 18, 1928, at the East Creighton Church of Christ in Fort Wayne. They have two daughters - Florence Mae Brentlinger and Janet Louise Welch.

He served 23 different congregations until his retirement in May of 1964. Then from November 1964 he served with the Wallen Congregation until the end of October 1979 when he retired again. On April 30, 1980, he moved to the Methodist Memorial Home at Warren, Indiana 46792 (Telephone 219-375-2201). This is a fine Senior Citizens Home and he would welcome visitors.

1951

MYRON STUMP — (Waterloo, Corunna, Norris)

He was born May 21, 1923 near Winchester, Indiana, and had one brother. He attended rural elementary and high school near Winchester and then Ball State. He taught high school two years before becoming a minister. He served two pastorates before coming to the Waterloo Circuit. One of these was at Shrewsbury Church in Massachusetts and this is when he met his life partner, Miriam, who was born in Worchester, Mass.

The Stumps have four sons, Philip, Paul, Stephen and Timothy. A daughter, Elizabeth Ellen, passed away three weeks of age with a congenital heart disease. They have a daughter Lydia, 19, and six grandchildren.

He has been pastor at the Methodist Church at Fontana for the last six years. Miriam is studying for the ministry, attending the School of Theology in Clairmont, California. She also is Chaplain of a Methodist Girl's Home named David and Margaret. Their address is 9113 Olive St., Fontana, California 92335 (Telephone 714-822-2363).

Myron worked with the Goodwill Industries until August of 1962 and spent four years as a social worker for the Welfare Department in San Bernadino, California.

1952-55

CLAUDE H. SIMONS — (1952 served Waterloo, Corunna, Norris - 1953-55 served Waterloo, Norris and Barkers Chapel)

He was born in Marion, Indiana, on August 15, 1890, the son of Arthur and Cora Simons. He received his education from Wesleyan Methodist Theological Institute and Bible Training at Fairmount, Indiana. He was ordained Elder on August 24, 1919.

He was married on June 8, 1920, at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to Dot Emmert of Jamestown, Indiana. After thirty-five years of marriage, Dot passed away on October 27, 1955. No Children were born to this union. Claude married Eveyln Stratmeier of Woodburn, Indiana on August 31, 1959, at Wauseon, Ohio.

He served Epworth Forest many years as a counselor, teacher, published the camp paper and rang class bells (known to many as "Ding-Dong"). He served on the cabinet, on the board of Missions and retired from the Woodburn congregation in 1959 but served as a supply pastor during 1960.

He died on May 26, 1977, at the age of 86, at his residence in Woodburn, Indiana. Burial was in Gar Creek Union Cemetery.

1956-57

WILLIAM MATHYS — (Waterloo, Norris, Barker's Chapel)

He was born October 16, 1932, in Muncie, Indiana, to Wilbur and Agnes Keesaer Mathys. He married Joyce Ashman (born December 16, 1932) on June 14, 1955. They have three children, Mark William (18), Beth Ann (16), and Bradley Wayne (14). He began his ministry in 1954 with his first appointment at Raub, Indiana. He served Hamilton from 1957-60, Anderson 1st from 1961-70, and Elwood 1st from 1971 until now. His present address 901 N. 16 St., Elwood, Indiana 46036.

PIONEER METHODIST PARISH

An arrangement of ten country churches working together with the leadership of three pastors - (Atona, Corunna, Helmer - Pastor Eugene Stolty) (Butler Center, Cedar Chapel, Swan - Pastor James Fritz) and (Concord, Meese, Norris, Rehobeth - Pastor John Dicken)

1958-59

JOHN DICKEN

He was born August 15, 1928, in New Castle, Indiana, the son of James and Adaline Dicken. He married Phyllis Riggin (born August 6, 1930) on June 8, 1952 at Geneva United Methodist Church. They met at Ball State Wesley Foundation (Student Ministry). They have four children, Mark (26), Kent (23), Debra (21), and Jill (17).

He was licensed to preach in 1947, ordained elder and received as full member of the North Conference in 1954. His first pastorate was as a student pastor at Cammack and Mt. Olive Churches, located west of Muncie, in 1950 and 1951. At present he is serving the Auburn Methodist Church and his address is 336 S. Iwo, Auburn, Indiana.

1960-61

HARRY McCRUM

He was born January 11, 1927 in Toledo, Ohio, the son of Harry and Margaret (Bockway) McCrum. He married Marjorie Hjerte on November 4, 1945 in West Virginia. They have three sons, Robert, Michael and Dan.

His first pastorate was with the Pioneer Parish. He then preached for two years in a Mennonite Church in Fort Wayne. After this he preached for three years in the Missionary Church in Sylvania. He has been teaching English since at Sylvania. He is on the Board of Education of Sylvania City.

His address is 5424 Burgess St., Sylvania, Ohio, 43560 (telephone 419-882-5187)

1962-71

EVERETT HAINES — (1962-65 was still the Pioneer Parish)

(1966-69 was Waterloo Circuit with Waterloo and Norris Chapel), (1969-71 was Maple Grove and Norris)

He was born January 19, 1917 at LaGrange, Indiana, son of Art Haines and Ida May Detterman Haines. He graduated from Pierceton High School. On May 12, 1943, he married Evelyn Sechrist of Warsaw. They have three children, Martha Louise (Albert), Nancy Sue, and Rebecca Ann (Flener).

He began his ministry June 1, 1952, serving Wolf Lake for five years, on LaGrange Larger Parish for four years, then Waterloo and Norris for nine years. He retired June 3, 1979, and is living on Golden lake, R. R. 1, Pleasant Lake 46779.

1971-76

JOSEPH HANAWALT — (Maple Grove and Norris)

He was born April 16, 1914 at Logansport, Indiana, child of Monroe and Anna Hanawalt. He married Mildred Branham on August 8, 1938 in the Wheatland Avenue United Methodist Church at Logansport, Indiana. Mildred was born January 14, 1914. They were blessed with three children; Carolyn Sue (Eichanauer), Sharon Jo (Kreps), and John Wesley.

His first appointment was at New Waverly, Hoovers and Skillman Chapel Charge in the Logansport District June 1938. He was very active in youth work, having been Junior-Hi Camp Director for many years, worked in Senior-Hi Institutes and Camp for the Retarded. He made many pieces of equipment and games for youth camps. He initiated and guided a Lord's Acre Program on two parishes and caused two new churches to be constructed. He retired on June 1, 1979, and resides at his cottage at Epworth Forest, R. R. 1, North Webster.

1976-

KENNETH SPENCER — Maple Grove and Norris)

He was born October 29, 1923, in New Albany, Indiana, to Granville and Lelia Spencer. He married Millie on November 24, 1942 at DePauw Memorial Methodist Church, New Albany. Their children are Lynn Katherine (Crane), Philip (Pastor), and Mark.

He was ordained Deacon June 1956 and Elder June 1958. His first appointment was Mauckport Charge as a student minister while attending Indiana University. In 1968 he was transferred from the Indiana South Methodist Conference to the Northwest Conference of the Methodist Church. Then the merger with EUB came and he has served under three conferences, three District Superintendents and two Bishops. His present address is 2008 Fairview Drive, Auburn.

Elected Trustees - 1883

Below
in kind
8-1319

Trustees of the Church, Matilda

This certifies that at the fourth quarterly conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held at Waterloo Indiana February 3rd 1883 Samuel R. Nickel, Herman Froelich, C. W. McVicker, Joseph Bowley, William B. Maxwell, George Shoner and James I. Best, were duly elected in accordance with the established usages of said Church, to be the trustees of Church and Parsonage properly belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church of Waterloo DeKalb County Indiana, for the term of one year from April 1st 1883.

Also at the same time place and manner, N. B. McIndy, Martin Jacksonman, and Sylvanus Clark were elected to be Trustees for the Church property commonly known as Barber Chapel situate in Smithfield Township DeKalb County Indiana, for the above named time and date.

Also Daniel D. Metcalf, Jeremiah D. Likens and John Wilson were in like manner, time and date elected to be Trustees of the Church Property known as Norris Chapel situate in Union Township DeKalb County Ind.

Attest Francis N. Biedler
 Secretary

4th Quarterly Conference M.E. Church
 Waterloo Indiana February 7th 1883 }
 The above Recorded Feb 9th 1883 at 10 P.M. M. Boland, Recor.

DANIEL D. METCALF

He was born January 19, 1840 in Ohio and died April 4, 1919 at age 79. His wife's name was Margaret. He was a farmer who had heart problems. See map of 1880 showing he lived first house west of Norris Chapel.

JEREMIAH D. LIKENS

He was born October 27, 1837. He served in the 30th infantry, Company H (composed almost wholly of DeKalb County Men), was mustered in as Sergeant. On September 24, 1861, he was promoted to second lieutenant, commissioned first lieutenant December 19, 1864, and captain February 4, 1865. He married Matilda E. Walsworth on January 31, 1864. In 1884 he was living in Nebraska and as far as is known never returned from there. See map of 1880 showing he owned 80 acres on corner of Road 8 and County Road 49 and lived there.

JOHN WILSON

He was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, March 14, 1840, a son of James and Jane (Moody) Wilson, who came to DeKalb County in the fall of 1844 and settled in the woods on Section 33, Wilmington Township, coming from Ohio in a one-horse wagon. The father died in 1847. When a youth our subject learned the carpenter's trade and worked at it several years. He spent a year and a half in Traverse Bay, Michigan. He enlisted in the war of the Rebellion in Company E, Eleventh Indiana Infantry, known as General Lew Wallace's Zouaves, and served over four years. He participated in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Hyman, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Port Gibson, Champion Hills and several others. He was married May 17, 1866 to Amanda Bair, daughter of Rudolph Bair, who moved to Allen County, Indiana in 1845. Mrs. Wilson was a native of Holmes County, Ohio, born in September of 1844. To Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were born four children, Morton R., James A.B., Alma O. and Mary M.

Mr. Wilson served Union Township as Justice of the Peace five years, when he resigned. He was a successful farmer owning 150 acres of valuable land, sixty acres of it being in Union Township. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

He died in April, on the first, 1903, and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. He was 63 years of age. See map of 1880 showing his residence to be on the southwest corner of County Roads 47 and 40.

Newspaper Articles 1880-1885

AUBURN COURIER (August 5, 1880)

"Social at residence of D. D. Metcalf about five miles east of town on Friday for purpose of raising funds to assist in furnishing the new church which is being built at that point. Hacks will start from Methodist parsonage in this place at half past six in the evening."

WATERLOO PRESS (August 19, 1880)

"The new M. E. Church at Metcalf's corners, southeast of this place, will be dedicated September 5th by Rev. A. Marine of Fort Wayne. A cordial invitation is extended to all."

AUBURN EVENING STAR (August 19, 1880)

"The church which is being built by the M. E. Society at Metcalf's corners 5 miles east of this place is about completed and will be dedicated Sunday, September 5, 1880, by Rev. A. Marine of Fort Wayne. A cordial invitation is extended to all. The program will be announced next week. H. J. Norris, Pastor

(September 2, 1880)

"The new church at Metcalf's corners will be dedicated next sabbath morning by Rev. A. Marine of Fort Wayne. A general invitation is extended and those who wish can ride out and back for 25 cents.

WATERLOO PRESS (September 9, 1880)

"The new M. E. Church at Metcalf's Corners was dedicated last Sunday."

July 20, 1882)

"A cheap house down in the neighborhood of Norris Chapel was burned down on the fourth."

(February 1, 1883)

"The M. E. congregation of Norris Chapel gave their pastor Rev. J. K. Walts a pound party on Tuesday evening."

"There was another of those happy occurrences at the Methodist parsonage on Tuesday the 30th. A number of the members and congregation of Norris Chapel came up with a full sled of the substantials of life, the gifts of many friends. Accept out thanks, one and all, for these tokens of your love and esteem. Rev. and Mrs. J.K. Walts"

(March 22, 1883)

"Rev. J. K. Walts will close this years work next Sunday morning and evening at Waterloo and in the afternoon and prospects are favorable for good results."

(March 6, 1884)

"Rev. W. M. VanSlyke is engaged in a series of meetings at Norris Chapel. The interest is growing and prospects are favorable for good results."

February 12, 1885)

"Rev. J. W. Paschall of Wawaka, will preach in the Presbyterian Church next Sabbath morning at 10:30 a.m. and at Norris Chapel at 2:30 p.m. The friends of the church should exercise diligence in circulating this announcement."

February 26, 1885)

"Mr. J. P. Nash will preach in the Presbyterian Church next Sabbath at 10:30 a.m. and at Norris Chapel at 2:30 p.m."

(March 5, 1885)

"Rev. I. W. Lowman has been holding a series of meetings at Norris Chapel, during the past two weeks, and as a result, about thirty conversions are reported. The whole neighborhood is awakened."

(May 12, 1885)

"Everything is prospering.

The Sabbath School has a large attendance.

Soloman Baughman commenced sowing oats Monday.

Rev. Parr has preached two interesting sermons. We hope he will have good success.

Rev. J. W. Lowman will speak next Sunday evening at the M. E. Church. All are invited.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Magginnis attended church last Sunday. Everybody wishes them much joy.

William Stroh has a singing class at the Chapel for the benefit of the school. He has an interesting class.

The Young folks prayer meeting is continued and doing well. They have a large attendance both of young and old.

We would like to know how Maud M. and Mr. S. and Stella B. and Mr. M. got home without climbing the high fences, crossing plowed fields and swamps.

(May 18, 1885)

"Spring is just coming.

Farmers are preparing to plant corn.

Prayer meetings on Monday and Thursday evenings.

John Weeks who has been very sick is getting along slowly.

Mrs. George Pepple has gone to Pennsylvania to visit relatives.

There was a large congregation to hear Rev. Lowman last Sunday evening.

The fruit trees are beginning to blossom and prospects for fruit are favorable.

Cora Plum is boarding at James Sherwoods. She is teaching an excellent school at Piles School House.

There has been some slurring by the young folks. We hope it will be stopped as it is beginning to make hard feelings.

Fire broke out southeast of the church and the men had to take down a part of the fence to keep it from the buildings. Considerable damage was done."

(May 25, 1885)

"A good rain.

Corn is coming up

Here we are again.

Sunday School next Sunday at half past nine.

Adam Stroh raised his barn last Thursday.

There was a prayer meeting last Sunday after Sunday School.

The rain Sunday evening made a general disappointment all around.

Some ladies were calling the other evening to see what was going on. They were disappointed.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Sebert have moved into George Foster's house where they will reside in the future.

(August 13, 1885)

"The second quarterly meeting of the M. E. Church will be held next Saturday and Sunday at Norris chapel. The presiding elder will be present."

Theme Song

Our church began one hundred years ago
Here on this land our church began to grow
And through the years good christians came to know
The love of God at Norris Chapel Church.

This is the year for us to celebrate
Centennial year when we remember dates
Centennial year activities can't wait
They're here at Norris Chapel Church.

So join us now in celebration
Singing to God and worshipping his Son
Giving our time and joining in the fun
It's all right here at Norris Chapel Church
It's all right here at Norris Chapel Church.

Memorials

PICTURE OF JESUS KNOCKING in memory of Minnie Weicht given by Albert Weicht

COLLECTION PLATES in memory of Mrytle Lee given by Willing Worker's Class

SIX FOLDING TABLES in memory of Helen Rosenberry given by Ivan Rosenberry Family and Willing Worker's Class

CROSS ON ALTAR in memory of Helen Rosenberry given by Ivan Rosenberry Family

STAINED GLASS WINDOW in memory of Glenn Heffley given by Heffley Family

BAPTISMAL FOUNT in memory of Faye Miller given by Faye Miller Family

PICTURE OF JESUS AND LAMB in memory of Eva Kettle and Pauline Hefty given by Hefty Family

PEW CUSHIONS in memory of Helen Rosenberry and Grandma Hart given by Ivan Rosenberry Children

SONG BOOKS PURCHASED IN 1980 in memory of Ralph Staley, Lester Rennecker, Hazel Haynes and Ivan Rosenberry given by Willing Worker's Class, young Disciples Class, Florence Staley and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Weicht

Bits Of Humor and Memories Through The Years

The following statements were copied from THE MOORSVILLE TIDE of September 22, 1888, written by William Maxwell and Miss Cora Oberholtzer. It was an independent paper published semi-monthly and containing all the principal events and happenings of the times.

The people of Norris Chapel would like to have Mr. Lackey come back and pay for the lemonade which he called out for himself and Maud Metcalf and then went away without paying for it.

As we understand meeting was out at Norris Chapel by half past nine o'clock a week ago last Sunday evening, but during services the Minister has impressed upon the minds of four of the congregation that they should become Christians but being a little bashful they concluded to await until after the crowd had gone home and then if possible they would make their peace with God and at half past ten they were still there but had come out on the porch but had forgotten to close the door and the boys a coming home from town looked in at the open door but they hate to see the folks not gone when meeting is no more.

Why it was that Hiram Wallace and Thell Wilson were so busily engaged talking to Miss Cook Steward and Fallie Likens after the social at Norris Chapel, no one could guess, but the mystery was soon solved for those who had the patience to stay and await developments. For when John Kruse and Miss Addie Steward arrived home they found Dick there also, and just then the horse set up a pitiful cry which sounded something like home sweet home and which was also to be a signal by which the boys were to start on their homeward march and as for Thell he should feel ashamed for not helping Elmer catch a horse for Elmer says he wished to take Miss Dora Nodine home and he went home and after trying to catch one of the horses which were in pasture and finding his efforts to be in vain went to bed feeling considerably out of humor.

For those who did not know why Albert Harwood and Miss Pluma Miller were so late at Norris Chapel Social we will endeavor to give an explanation. It was not because they did not arrive sooner but because they were there twice. It appears that there was a small misunderstanding in some way for Albert brought Joseph Brown with him to the church and then started back after Pluma but while he was wasting away the time in this manner Pluma was going across lots toward Norris Chapel, but Albert unconscious of her whereabouts drove on until he arrived at John E. Millers and learning that Pluma had started for Norris Chapel, Albert also started but he did not arrive there until after the disapproved Pluma did but when they were once certain that they were both at the same place they started away and did not arrive until the late hour.

Miss Laura Baughman felt very badly disappointed at the ice cream social at Norris Chapel because Jud had promised to be there, but had got headed the wrong way and went to camp meeting and did not arrive at Norris Chapel until Sunday evening, but with the exception of Laura's shoe heels which she says are nearly worn off she got home all right.

We have heard of men eating 3 dozen quails at 1 meal. Others who have eaten half an ox and heard of one man taking 12 hundred pills at one dose but we must admit that we never saw anyone who could eat \$2.60 worth of peanuts until George Handy accomplished this wonderful tank filling process at Norris Chapel Social, but George is no eater when we remember Jean Hubbard who ate 13 large watermelons in 20 minutes.

A copy of the whole paper will be on display at the Centennial Celebration for anyone interested in reading it. It was copied without any changes by Williard G. Maxwell of St. Joe, son of William and Cora Oberholtzer Maxwell.

Names mentioned in this text were:

Baughman, Bertha
Baughman, Laura
Brown, Joseph
Bunge, Ella
Bunge, John

Cook, John

DeWitt, Comma
Duesler, Minnie

Eberly, Josh

Geisinger, Liss
Greenfield, Susie

Haines, Cam
Handy, George
Harwood, Albert
Hubbard, Jean

Kruse, John
Kruse Lewis

Lackey, Mr.
Lanning, Doad
Likens, Elmer
Likens, Fallie
Likens, Stephen
Livergood, John

Maxwell, William

Metcalf, Ilena
Metcalf, Etta
Metcalf, James
Metcalf, Maud
Metcalf, (the widow)
Miller, Paul
Miller, John
Miller, Pluma
Moore, Hiram
Mutzfield, Charley

Nodine, Nora

Oberholtzer, Cora
Oberholtzer, Merytha
Oberholtzer, William

Pifer, Joseph

Rogers, Nora
Rollins, Clara

Rose, Frank

Shaffer, John
Smith, Will
Staley, Adam
St. Clair, Mr.
Steward, Addie
Steward, Cook
Steward, Lewis

Wilson, Della
Wallace, Hiram
Wilson, Thell
Wider, John
Whetsel, Clark

Isaiah Likens used to canvas all the Norris Chapel territory on his horse collecting money to pay the preacher on Sunday. He was known by the nickname Ike and would always bring peppermint candy to church on Sunday for the little ones.

Back in 1928-29, during the depression, Norris Chapel almost went under. At one time the attendance was twelve faithful people.

Ralph Staley would take kindling from home to warm the church each Sunday. The seats would be so cold (like going in the barn) and whoever came would sit and warm the seats until more came. Sometimes they came and sometimes they didn't.

Everyone doubled as janitors, secretaries, pianist, teachers, etc.

On March 15, 1935 a penny supper was held and \$15.00 was made. On December 4, 1935, a social was held and the big sum of \$18.00 was cleared. On March 8, 1935, there were 40 in Sunday School and collection was \$1.51, and on December 20th the collection was \$.91. The profit from a social on July 15, 1938 was \$20.00. Compare this with \$425 cleared in 1973 and \$810 in 1979.

Many remember putting boards across the seats for tables and using little old oil stoves on the back seat to make coffee water. Dishes were washed in the water heated on these stoves. The dishes were kept in an old cupboard in the coal bin.

The chimney fell on the old toilet that used to sit outside by the church and Faye Miller exclaimed "Oh my land, it busted the hole."

Every so often the stove pipes were taken down to be cleaned and Effie Wilson, Faye Miller, and Bertha Hefty talked their husbands, Walter, Bill, and Fred into taking them down. In the process of cutting the wires which held the stove pipes up something happened and the men lost their hold on the stove pipes and they fell to the church floor. What a mess! You guessed it, the men departed and left the three women with the mess to clean up.

A coon crawled up the tile to the floor drain, couldn't go any farther, couldn't back out and so he died there. Keith Culler and Lester Rennecker took the job of removing him, piece by piece, smell by smell.

Then there was Katie Moore who always managed to park in a mud hole, and Delbert McBride who would forget to shut off his car when he went into the church. Delbert even drove to church one day with an ax on his car.

Ralph Staley wore a straw hat to church in February. I guess he wanted to hurry up spring. Evelyn (Zeisloft) Zable used to entertain by yodeling. Then there was the time that Mary Kay was singing in the junior choir, had the solo part one Sunday, and had on her new dress she had just made in school. It was white with black figures. Everyone stood up but Mary Kay who had her dress caught in the pew. She was still able to sing the solo part after drying the tears and getting unstuck.

For years there were no sinks or water in the church and then Wesley Cochran put in some sinks and running water. Ann Albert was president of the WSCS and responsible for seeing that everything ran smoothly at suppers. Just after the sinks were put in, the church had a supper, and Ann was running around making sure everything was being done, fussing about this and that and she said to Hazel Rennecker "where are we going to wash dishes." Hazel looked at her and said "I thought we were going to wash them in our new sinks."

Before the sinks and water were in the basement, water had to be carried in a ten gallon milk cans from someone's home. Lester Rennecker was carrying one of these milk cans down the steps one time and slipped and fell. Shame on Hazel - she almost died laughing.

Then there was the time Jay Freed paid \$62 for his box at a box social. By some coincidence it turned out to be his wife's box). At the same social Gene Warstler was extra hungry and bid in two boxes.

One hundred years have passed and if all the memories have been recorded it would have filled a couple of books or more but unfortunately what few memories we have been able to gather mostly came from those who had them stored in their minds. Thanks to all of the people who have contributed to this history, to Rev. John Dickens for his library and to God for watching over Norris Chapel for all those years.

Workers Of The Church Through The Years

SUPERINTENDENTS

Accurate Records from 1967 to present

Orin Nimmons
 John Albert Rennecker
 Robert Fuller
 Gertrude Metcalf
 Scott Rhode
 Eugene Carper
 M. Wilson
 Katie Moore
 James Miller
 Darwin Troyer
 Albert Weicht
 Donna Rosenberry
 Keith Culler
 Donald Myers
 Donald Korff 1967
 Wayne Myers 1968-71
 Gene Warstler 1972-74
 Thornton Zeisloft 1975
 Wayne Myers 1976-77
 Clara Haiflich 1978-79
 Ron Hefty 1980 -

PIANISTS

Mary Bishop Miller

Eudoskie Rennecker Keller
 Oren Nimmons
 Agatha Kruse Shoudel
 Trudy Wilson Boren
 Ruth Stonebracker Beard
 Marie Bishop Miller
 Ruth Wilson
 Irene Miller Bisel
 Helen Smith
 Donna Rennecker Carnahan
 Evelyn Zeisloft Zabel
 Fern Metcalf Johns
 Florence Staley
 Carrie McBride
 Mirta Myers
 Helen Rosenberry
 Ruth Culler
 Beth Heffley
 Diane Korff
 Retha Martin
 Jean Warstler
 Rowena Zerkle
 Phyllis Myers

CHOIR DIRECTOR

1954-80

Ruth Culler

LAY MEMBERS TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1944-51 A.J. Smith of Waterloo
 1952 Ora Zerkle of Waterloo
 1953-54 Mrs. Ned McIntosh, Waterloo
 1955 Albert Weicht
 1956 Helen Rosenberry
 1957 Alberta Cochran
 1958-59 Helen Rosenberry
 1960-61 Keith Culler
 1962-63 Harold Albert
 1964-65 Albert Weicht (Reserve)
 1966 Harold Albert
 1967 Wayne Culler
 1968 Harold Albert
 1969-70 Wayne Culler
 1971-74 Wayne Culler (Reserve)
 1975-80 Wayne Culler

JANITORS

1940 Ralph Staley
 1947 Bill Pierce
 1948 Thomas Mohr
 1951 Bill Pierce,
 WSCS
 1963 Glen Myers
 1964 Gary Norton
 1965 Grant Norton
 1966 MYF
 1967-71 Hilma Culler
 1972-77 Freed Family
 1977-80 Deanna Treesh

~~VICE~~ PRESIDENTS No record between 1953-61

~~WSCS~~

1940-42 Katie Moore
 1942-45 Ida Fuller
 1945-46 Thelma Werner
 1946-51 Ida Fuller
 1951-52 Ann Albert
 1952 Donna Rosenberry

1961-62 Ruth Culler
 1962-63 Addie Myers
 1963-64 Ann Albert
 1964-65 Helen Rosenberry
 1965-67 Eva Baker
 1967-70 Phyllis Myers
 1970-72 Hilma Culler
 1972-73 Martha Freed
 1973-75 Phyllis Myers
 1975-76 Carolyn Heffley
 1976-79 Jan Myers
 1979-80 Carolyn Heffley
 Violet Wallace

NEWSLETTER REPORTERS

The Norris Star

Name submitted by Wayne Culler

1967-72 Ruth Culler & Jean Warstler
1972 Jan Myers
Millie Eberly
Zella Warstler
Nan Grable
1980 Diane Meshberger

ORGANISTS

Helen Rosenberry
Beth Heffley
Carol Warstler
Phyllis Myers

ATTENDANCE

Several who are attending Norris Chapel at this time have been attending for many years:

Seventy Years or more:

Roy Culler

Sixty Years or more:

Albert Weicht
Hazel Rennecker
Thelma Werner
Florence Staley

Fifty Years or more:

Ruth Heffley
Roberta Boren
Robert Charleswood
Iris Ramer
Thornton Zeisloft
Keith Culler
Harry Hefty

GRADUATES OF LAY SPEAKER'S SCHOOL

In 1977

Allen Albert
Connie Zerkle
Ron Hefty
Jean Warstler
Gene Warstler
Glenda Woodcox

Wayne Myers
Bernice Wehnert
Beverly Martin
Delbert Martin
Glen Myers

Later

Ron Grable
Jan Myers
Wayne Culler

TREASURERS OF THE CHURCH

Accurate records from 1967 to present

Beatrice Weicht
Lester Rennecker
Florence Staley
Mirta Myers
Helen Rosenberry
Harold Albert
Addie Myers 1967-June 1969
Marjorie Zeisloft..... June 1969 - 1973
Diane Meshberger..... 1974
Martha Albert 1975-77
Wayne Culler 1978 -

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS PLAYED

At times Norris had a regular little orchestra

Lester Rennecker	Violin
Ben Werner	Violin
Frank Beckwith	Mandolin
Doris (Weicht) Menges	Accordian
Tom Mohr	Drums
Charlotte (Mohr) Castret	Clarinet
Diana (Culler) Glaze	Clarinet
Leon Kessler	Coronet
Imogene (Staley) Miller	Saxophone
Glen Myers	Saxophone

Written by Ruth Culler

ENTERED MINISTRY WHILE ATTENDING NORRIS CHAPEL

Thomas Mohr

He received his local preacher's license in 1952 while a senior in high school. His first preaching pastorate was at Milan Center Methodist Church in May of 1954. He is preaching at the Western Evangelical Methodist Church in Springerton, Illinois, at this time, and is in the process of starting a Christian School, interdominational, called American Christian Training School.

Glenda Woodcox

She entered the ministry June of 1978 with an appointment at Alvarado Methodist Church. At present she is preaching at Faith Methodist and Prospect Methodist in Ossian, Indiana.

TRUSTEES

Trustees were not recorded every year, but listed below are the trustees that were recorded at the Recorder's Office, Courthouse, Auburn.

1880	Daniel Metcalf, David Stewart, Jeremiah Likens
1883	Daniel Metcalf, Jeremiah Likens, John Wilson
1884	Daniel D. Metcalf, David Stewart, Levi Baughman
1886	Daniel D. Metcalf, David Stewart, John Wilson, Isaiah Likens, Isaiah Stroh
1911-12	J. Albert Rennecker, Isaiah A. Likens, Orin Nimmins
1913	Isaiah A. Likens, J. Albert Rennecker, Orin M. Nimmins
1914-15	O. M. Nimmins, J. Albert Rennecker, Clark Whetzel
1929	Mrs. Laura Cooper, Mrs. Effie Wilson
1935	Eugene Carper, Susan Sherwood, Albert Weicht, Lester Rennecker, Mabel Esselburn
1938	Eugene Carper, Susan Sherwood, Albert Weicht, Lester Rennecker, Mrs. James Moore
1939	Eugene Carper, Albert Weicht, Mrs. James Moore, Lester Rennecker, Mrs. Ralph Staley
1949	Albert Weicht, Darwin Troyer, Lester Rennecker
1950-52	Albert Weicht, Harold Albert, Lester Rennecker
1955-56	Albert Weicht, Keith Culler, Lester Rennecker
1957	Albert Weicht, Keith Culler, Harold Albert
1958	Albert Weicht, Harold Albert, Avon Caldwell
1959	Harold Albert, Avon Caldwell, Mrs. Pauline Hefty, Loyal Norton, Lester Rennecker
1960	Avon Caldwell, Mrs. Pauline Hefty, Loyal Norton, Lester Rennecker, Thornton Zeisloft
1962	Keith Culler, Mabel Wagner, Frank Wagner, Glen Heffley
1963	Delbert Martin, Keith Culler, Frank Wagner, Mrs. Frank Wagner, Glen Heffley
1964	Mrs. Frank Wagner, Don Korff, Albert Weicht, Don Myers, Delbert Martin, Keith Culler
1966	Don Korff, Albert Weicht, Roy Culler, Don Myers, Keith Culler, Delbert Martin
1967	Roy Culler, Don Myers, Keith Culler, Delbert Martin, Sam Eberly, Albert Weicht
1968	Keith Culler, Delbert Martin, Albert Weicht, Sam Eberly, Thornton Zeisloft, Avon Caldwell
1969-71	Sam Eberly, Albert Weicht, Thornton Zeisloft, Avon Caldwell, Donald Korff, Gene Warstler
1972	Gene Warstler, Wayne Culler, Sam Eberly, Albert Weicht, Allen Albert, Ron Hefty
1973	Sam Eberly, Albert Weicht, Allen Albert, Ron Hefty, Delbert Martin, Wayne Culler
1974	Delbert Martin, Wayne Culler, Sam Eberly, Jan Myers, Keith Culler
1975	Delbert Martin, Wayne Culler, Sam Eberly, John Carper, Jan Myers, Keith Culler
1976	Sam Eberly, John Carper, Jan Myers, Keith Culler, Jerry Smith, Dale Heitz
1977	Sam Eberly, Don Meschberger, Jerry Smith, Dale Heitz, Jan Myers, Keith Culler
1978	Thornton Zeisloft, Dale Heitz, John Ramer, Don Meschberger, Robert Charleswood, Jan Myers
1979	John Ramer, Don Meschberger, Robert Charleswood, Jan Myers, Wayne Culler, Thornton Zeisloft, Dale Heitz, Wayne Culler
1980	Robert Charleswood, Jan Myers, Wayne Culler, Thornton Zeisloft, Dale Heitz, John Ramer, Steve Culler

Events Through The Years

COOKBOOKS:

The WSCS had a cookbook printed in 1952. A second cookbook was printed in 1968, costing \$1,290 for 505 cookbooks. They were sold for \$3.25 each. In 1979 a third cookbook was printed costing \$6,000 for 2,000 and sold for \$5.00 each.

CLASSES AND FELLOWSHIPS:

Willing Worker's Class was organized around 1950 with four couples. Harold Albert was the first president.

Young Disciple's Class was organized in 1967 with the first meeting at Richard Fitch's home. Glen Myers was elected first president.

Young Crusadoer's Class was organized in 1978.

Men's Fellowship was organized March 17, 1974.

CHOIR AND ROBES:

The choir was organized in April of 1954. The first choir practice was held in the home of Sadie Lytel. The first song that was sung was "When the Roll is Called up Yonder". Helen Rosenberry was the pianist. Choir members made white robes with black bows in 1956. In December of 1967 the church purchased new robes in blue. Choir folders were donated by Wayne Culler in November of 1968.

SOFTBALL

Organized in summer of 1967 - played two games at Auburn.

1968 - Played in the Auburn League.

1969 - Played in the St. Joe League - took third place

1970 - Played in the St. Joe League - tied for first place and lost to Lutherans in an overtime game

1971 - Three way tie for first place - Lost to Lutherans

1972 - Took first place

1973 - Took first place

1974 - Still in St. Joe League

1975 - Norris went with two Teams - Norris II took first place

1976 - Norris II took first place

1977 - Norris II took first place and Norris I took second place

1978 - Norris went with one team again - Three way tie for first place - Lost to Newville United Methodists

1979 - Still with St. Joe League

MERGER

In May of 1968, United was added to the church name because of the merger between the United Brethren and Methodist Church. The church name became the Norris Chapel United Methodist Church.

DIRECTORY

Pictures were taken of all the families attending Norris Chapel in 1968 and a directory was published.

LIBRARY

In 1968 the library was started with Martha Freed first librarian.

ORGAN

Norris Chapel has had two organs. In April of 1960 the first organ was purchased at a cost of \$700. On April 22, 1977 the second organ was published at a cost of \$4,000.

CONSIGNMENT SALE

Norris held a consignment sale on April 3, 1965

ELEVEN HONORED

On April 19, 1964, eleven persons who had attend Norris Chapel for forty years or more at that time were honored with a special day for them. The program Committee was Virginia Norton, chairman, Marjorie Zeisloft and Ruth Culler. The Decoration Committee was Beth Heffley, chairman, Jean Warstler and Martha Freed.

The program consisted of an opening address by Harold Albert, followed by special music by Pat Korff. Rev. Everett Haines, pastor of the church at this time, introduced two former pastors who were able to attend - Rev. Ben Zehr of Coldwater and Rev. John Dicken of Warren, Indiana.

The eleven were then presented with books on the history of the Norris Chapel Church and each was given a gift to represent a part they had played in the work of the church sometime through the years.

PILLAR OF THE CHURCH - Albert Weicht (received a small pillar)
MEMBER THERE THE LONGEST - Ralph Staley (received a trophy for 60 years attendance)
PAINTER OF THE CHURCH FOR BEAUTY - Roy Culler (received a paintbrush)
VIOLIN MUSIC IN THE CHURCH - Lester Rennecker (received violin strings)
CRADLE ROLL IN THE CHURCH - Florence Staley (received a small cradle and a roll)
COOK OF THE CHURCH - Faye Charleswood (received a chef hat and apron)
HELPER AT THE SUPPERS OF CHURCH - Mary Lower (received soap of weiner and bun)
DISHWASHER AT THE SUPPERS - Pauline Hefty (received a dishtowel and lotion)
TEACHER AND ATTENDER FROM BABY TO THEN - Iris Hursh (received a picture of her as baby and then)
SEWER OF THE RAG RUGS - Eva Kettle (received a rag rug with Grandma Kettle on it)
GOOD CAKE BAKER - Hazel Rennecker (received a small cake)

WSCS — WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Organized September 12, 1940 with the following charter members:

Katie Moore	Hazel Rennecker	Florence Staley
Faye Charleswood	Ida Fuller	Bessie Richardson
Beatrice Weicht	Mary Lower	Ella Rosenberry
Clydia Barnhart	Ethel Troyer	Evelyn D. Zeisloft
Faye Miller	Eva Kettle	

FIRST OFFICERS OF THE WSCS: President Katie Moore, Vice President Ida Fuller, Recording Secretary Evelyn Zeisloft, Assistant Secretary Bessie Richardson, and Treasurer Hazel Rennecker.

Before this time the women's group was called the Ladies Aid.

LAY WITNESS

Lay Witness I was held November 30, December 1st and 2nd of 1973.

Lay Witness II was held January 24, 25, 26th of 1975.

Lay Witness III was held December 1, 2, 3rd of 1978.

RETREATS

June 28-30th, 1974 at Pankopp's Campgrounds north of Corunna for the families with Rev. and Mrs. Hanawalt leading in the study of the Book of Revelation.

November 22-24th, 1974 at Cartwright Cottage at Epworth Forest under leadership of Rev. Sparks.

November 14, 15, 16th, 1975 at Epworth Forest under leadership of Rev. Sparks.

July 16, 17, 18th, 1976 at Vic Timmerman's Pond. Theme was "meaning of scripture in our 200 year history" with Celebration Group from Taylor University.

November 12, 13, 14th, 1976 at Epworth Forest with leadership by Rev. Sparks.

July 22, 23, 24, 1977 at Vic Timmerman's Pond

November 9, 10, 11th, 1979 at Epworth Forest under leadership of Rev. Harold L. Leininger.

Salaries, Members and Attendance Through The Years

Year	Members	Norris Share Pastor's Salary	Sunday School Attend.	Church Attend.
1910-11	34	100		
1912	30	100		
1913	30	125		
1914-15	28	125		
1916	35	125		
1917	24	70		
1918	26	223		
1919	35	244		
1920	30	300		
1921	27	228		
1922	25	250		
1923	24	250		
1924	18	200		
1925	16	173		
1926	12	100		
1927	14	50		
1928	9	27		
1929	18	71	52	
1930	18	125	40	
1931	18	130	30	
1932	19		30	
1933	15	36	43	
1934	14	60	30	
1935	14	80	27	
1936	16	75	69	
1937	15	81	32	
1938	35	105	80	
1939		105	84	
1940	33	135	70	
1941	33	130	76	
1942	33	130	56	
1943	41	300	30	
1944	31	200	78	
1945		250	41	

Year	Members	Norris Share Pastor's Salary	Sunday School Attend.	Church Attend.
1946	40	300	35	
1947	39	400	40	
1948	39	400	41	
1949	40	400	46	
1950	38	500	40	40
1951	39	557	34	34
1952	53	900	40	40
1953	44	900	42	34
1954	43	900	44	35
1955	40	900	45	40
1956	39	900	52	40
1957	47	900	56	50
1958	40	1200	50	48
1959	48	1300	56	53
1960	54	1300	61	59
1961	65	1300	65	65
1962	63	1400	70	70
1963	66	1300	67	66
1964	59	1450	75	82
1965	67	1600	81	109
1966	76	1600	102	103
1967	78	2100	110	100
1968	80	2260	101	94
1969	86	2400	98	92
1970	85	2477	92	94
1971	75	2530	90	95
1972	85	2780	89	97
1973	94	3030	86	
1974	94	3030	84	
1975	101	3465	80	
1976	100	3990	73	
1977	100	5000	71	
1978	99	5500	67	
1979	104	5985	63	

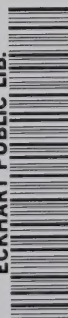


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